

## CARRIER PIGEONS AND THEIR USE.

A Remarkable Flight From Plainfield, Ill., to Newark, N. J.  
New York Tribune.

One hundred birds of the Hudson County Homing Pigeon Club were sent to Philadelphia on last Monday to be loosed Wednesday morning. The birds are owned in Brooklyn, Jersey City, Orange and Newark. At the fly of this club last year the pigeons were overtaken by a storm and two hundred of them lost. Not much better luck attended the club this year, only about half of the birds coming back. It is supposed that they were killed by sportsmen along the route.

On Sunday fifty birds of the Newark Club will be loosed from Wilmington Del. The Brooklyn Club will have a race on Sunday from Cresson, Penn.

"Always Ready," a bird belonging to the Newark Club, was loosed from Plainfield, Ill., on last Thursday. The distance is 650 miles, the longest flight ever attempted in this country. The bird reached home yesterday morning, beating the best record by two weeks and flying twenty miles further. The weather has been very bad along the course of the bird's fly, and there have been only two really good days. The best record previous to this is that of a bird who made the distance from Indianapolis to Jersey City—630 miles—in twenty-one days.

A number of homing pigeons was recently purchased in this city for shipment to Newfoundland, where they are used extensively by the fishermen of the coast. On going out at night each company of fishermen takes aboard its "smack" several homing pigeons. When they reach the fishing grounds, in the morning, a bird bears to the little port from which it comes the news of the night and the prospects for the day. Later on, when the vessel is ready to return, a bird is sent with an account of the catch, and those at the fishing hamlet know just what preparations to make for taking care of the fish which will be brought in. A pigeon telegraph service has been established on the Saugeen Peninsula, in the western part of Ontario Canada. The only telegraph office in the vicinity is at Weirton, but all over the surrounding country are pigeon stations from which birds can be dispatched to the telegraph with messages which are then forwarded by wire. A physician in Hamilton County, having a practice extending over a large territory employs homing pigeons extensively. He takes a basket in his carriage when he starts out in the morning, in which are several birds, and liberates them when it is necessary to communicate with his office. He also leaves pigeons among his more distant patients so that upon occasion arising he can be at once summoned.

### Tropical Fruits.

Mangoes from Jamaica are among the most delicious of these rare fruits. They are pear-shaped, with a thick, golden, red-cheeked rind and an orange-colored pulp. A large pit like a peach-stone takes up half the fruit, and contains a bitter kernel. The specimens of this fruit are said, by those who have eaten it in South America and Jamaica, to be excellent. It is necessary to pick the mango when it is ripe, as those that ripen after they are picked are devoid of flavor and worthless. It is consequently a perishable cargo, and full twenty per cent. of those brought to this country spoil before they reach the country. The sweet mango is the species unusually seen here. There is a slightly acid kind sometimes sold, which is very pleasant to the taste. Fresh mangoes are worth from fifty cents to one dollar a dozen.

The sweet mangoes put up at Bombay are a famous East Indian chutney, and a popular accompaniment of curries in England. Though seldom used in this country, they may be bought for \$1.50 a bottle. They should not be confounded with pickled musk melons, which are called mangoes by New England house-keepers.

The red and yellow bananas are not different species. All bananas are naturally yellow and are made red by grafting. The effect of the graft runs out in seven years, when we have sometimes bananas that are red, spotted or streaked with yellow. There are over forty or fifty varieties of this fruit. The little guineas, or fig bananas, is not unknown to our fruit stores. It is not over a finger long, and it is one of the finest species. The plantain and banana are of the same family. The

oriental Christians searching for the Garden of Eden believed that the banana was the forbidden fruit, and named it the "tree of Paradise," though the "forbidden fruit" sold in Paris fruit stalls and in our own market is a species of orange, the grape abaddock. It is of no special value, is acid, and is kept more for display than for anything else. The legend says, it was good till Eve tasted it, but it has been bad since. The deep depressions near the stem of the fruit like the mark of teeth are supposed to be the origin of its claim.

The mandarin oranges are a small species of fruit with a dark-colored perfumed rind hardly thicker than brown paper. The tangerine is a variety of mandarin. It is the thinnest-skinned species of orange known. Mandarin and tangerine oranges, which are in market during the winter months, are sold from seventy-five cents to one dollar a dozen. The seedless St. Michael oranges are brought from the Azores, and though common in England, are seldom seen in this country. They are a small, light-colored fruit, with scarcely any seeds, and are excellent in flavor. In this city they bring from sixty to seventy-five cents a dozen.

Fresh coconuts, or the immature coconuts, picked when they are half ripe, are the favorite food and beverage of the tropics. The stem and green cup at the base dropping off is the external indication that they have soured.—*Exchange*.

### American Success at the Electric Exhibition.

In advance of the official publication of the awards at the International Exhibition of Electricity, the Paris correspondent of the *Herald* cables, October 20, the names of the successful exhibitors from this country.

As a mark of the highest distinction, diplomas of honor have been awarded to the United States Signal Office, the Smithsonian Institution, the United States Patent Office, and Messrs. Edison and Graham Bell.

Gold medals are awarded to the Anglo-American and Brush Electric Light Companies, the United States Electric Lighting Company, Elisha Gray, and Tainter.

Silver medals to Bailey & Puskas, Connolly Brothers & MacTigue, Dolbear, Ecdard, Electric Purifier Company, Hubbard Pond Indicator Company, Western Electric Manufacturing Company, Weston Electric Light Company, and the Electro-Dynamic Company.

Bronze medals to Messrs. Chavet, Cumming, and Dion, the Hoosac Tunnel Company, Trinitro-Glycerine Works, Partz, Photo-Relievo Company, White House Mills and Williams.

If the relatively small number of American exhibitors be considered it will be seen that they have carried off a very large number of prizes. The awards have been made for the ensemble of each exhibitor's contribution, not for any single invention exhibited, except, of course, where there was only one.

### Army Worm.

For some two or three weeks we have known that the cotton or army worm, had made its appearance in the country and was eating the leaves and young bolls off the cotton, but as the season was so far advanced we did not think much damage could be done. To our dismay, however, we learn that it has now commenced its ravages on the young wheat, and if an early frost does not come to kill them there is hardly a prospect of raising a crop of wheat to meet the demand for bread which will soon be upon us, and which, we fear, will cause great destitution. What are we to do until the next crop is gathered? is a question. The question farmers are now discussing in their minds day and night, and it is one hard to answer. The man who has money can live somehow. But so many men have neither money, nor surplus property, nor credit. There are so many men in Texas whose only dependence for a living is in their own strong hands. There is, apparently so little demand for work of these hands that we cannot see how all are to escape the curse of hunger this winter. May God mercifully send a mild and open winter and an early spring, is the best wish we can make for the poor.—*Denison Democrat*.

That is why this untutored child of nature swore. He had never received the benefits of early training in profanity, and his language therefore was disconnected and rambling, but when we consider that he was ignorant of our language, and that every little while he had to stop and hold on to his digester with both hands and dig holes in the earth with his toes, the remarks didn't seem altogether out of place or irrelevant.

### A Slang Bill of Fare.

One of the peculiarities of the latest United States style of feeding the noble red man is the fact that he is given government ration, and at the same time appropriations are made which are supposed to maintain him.

Sometimes a wild Indian who don't know much about groceries and how to prepare them for food comes in and draws his regular soldier ration in this way. For instance, up in the Sitting Bull country awhile ago, an Indian came in from the warpath who had never seen any of the paleface style of food, and drew his rations.

He made a light meal of green ungrounded coffee the first day, and as he over-ate, and the coffee swelled on him, he had difficulty in buttoning his pants around the pain that he had on hand.

He felt very unhappy for a day or two, but laid it to the fact that he hadn't exercised much, and the consequent ennui and indigestion resulting therefrom.

As soon as he had succeeded in getting the interior department quieted down a little, he tackled his ration of candles. These he decided to parboil, in order to avoid trouble from indigestion. The dish was not so much of a glittering success as he had anticipated, and as he remorsefully picked the candle wicking out of his teeth with a tent pin, he made some remarks that grated harshly on the esthetic ear of those who stood near.

He then tried a meal of yeast powder with vinegar. He ate the yeast powder and then took a pint of extremely potent vinegar to wash it down.

At first there was a feeling of glad surprise in his stomach which rapidly gave place to unavailing remorse.

A can of yeast powder in an Indian's midst don't seem to be prepared for a pint of vinegar, and the result of such an unfortunate combination is not gratifying.

Every little while a look of pain would come over the features of the noble child of the forest, and then he would jump about seventeen feet and try to kick a cloud out of the sky. Then he would sit down and think over his past life.

It took about a week for him to get back to where he dared to get up another meal for himself. Then he fried a couple of pounds of laundry soap and ate that.

Soap is all right for external purposes, or for treating a pair of soiled socks, but it does not assimilate with the gastric juices readily, and those who have tried fried laundry soap as a relish do not seem to think that it will ever arrive at any degree of prominence as an article of diet.

When a gallon or so of agitated baking powder and vinegar is singing its little song in the innermost recesses of an Indian, and this has been followed by a treatment of laundry soap, the student of human nature can find a wide field for observation in that locality.

The earnest and occupied look, the troubled expression of the countenance, followed by the quick, nervous twitching of the muscles of the face and then the swelling up of the body, the bursting of the suspender button, the deep drawn sigh and the smothered cuss words, all betoken the gastric agitation going on within.

That is why an Indian prefers a link of bologna sausage and a two-year-old dog to the high-priced groceries so common to our modern civilization.—*Boomerang*.

### The Texas & Pacific Extension.

The end of the track is to-day on section 118, being 118 miles east of El Paso, and as the track is being laid at the rate of two miles per day, this will take it into El Paso on time (January 15, 1882).

The track-layers' boarding train is now at Van Horn side track up in the Cariso mountains, 4,700 feet above the sea-level, precipitous walls on each side, 2,500 feet higher, and surrounded by a wild and romantic mountain scenery, while as far as the eye can reach stretch the Eagle and Quitman mountains. On Monday, October 24th, the track-layers laid three miles of track in nine hours, being the best record west of the Mississippi river on any railroad, except on the Missouri Pacific, which was prepared for, and when the iron was hauled in wagons and thrown on the grade ahead of the track, costing Dan Coe-man about five times as much as his contract price. This three miles was laid by using only one iron-car, and no preparations having been made on the previous day, not a tie being on the grade at the end of the track at 7

o'clock a. m. The track-laying force is now so well organized that they can lay three cars of iron (3,000 feet) per hour or 30,000 feet per day, being a little over three and three-fourths miles. The force is now about 300 men fifty teams and three locomotives. The weather has been exceptionally fine, clear and cool, and not a single case of sickness is reported in the camp. The grading is all finished to El Paso, and the bridges are put up as fast as the track approaches, while the section houses and depots follow as fast as needed, and the telegraph line is at Van Horn to-day.—*Dallas Herald*, Nov. 1st.

### Number of Cattle in the Island of Jersey to the Square Mile.

The cattle number a trifle over 12,000 head; put the island in a square, and it is less than seven miles. But deduct the rocks and waste lands of its surface, the space occupied by roads, the buildings for its 60,000 inhabitants, and the gardens necessary to grow vegetables and some fruits for their own consumption, and we doubt whether the remainder would be over five square miles. If so, it would be supporting 2,400 cattle to the mile. Whether any food is imported to assist in their sustenance, we are not informed, but we take it for granted that there is not, or at least very little.

The annual average export of cattle from Jersey the past eighteen years has been 2,049, which alone are equal to the number which England supports in proportion to its size to Jersey, as she only has one to the acre. We doubt whether any country could carry under present cultivation, more sheep per square mile than Jersey does cattle. Her ability to do this is owing to the high cultivation of various sorts of grass and roots, particularly the luscious, nutritive parsnip, which assists in adding such fine flavor and rich color to the butter made from the milk of these admirable cows.—*Davenport Democrat*.

### How A Wife Can Help Her Husband.

There is nothing which goes so far toward placing young people beyond the reach of poverty, as economy in the management of their affairs. It matters not whether a man furnish little or much for his family, if there is a continual leakage in his kitchen or in his parlor; it runs away he knows not how, and the demon Waste cries, "More!" like the horse-leech's daughter, until he that provideth hath no more to give. It is the husband's duty to bring into the house, and it is the duty of the wife to see that none goes wrongfully out of it, not the least article, however unimportant, in itself, for it establishes a precedent, nor under any pretence, for it opens the door for Ruin to stalk in, and he seldom leaves an opportunity unimproved. A man gets a wife to look after his affairs, and to assist him through life—to educate and prepare his children for a proper station in life, and not to dissipate his property. The husband's interests should be the wife's care, and her greatest ambition carry her no further than his welfare or happiness depends.

### What Was in Her Shoes?

The Little Rock, Ark., *Gazette* tells a story of a young lady, Miss Ida Pe-teet, who had just returned from church and stepped into her room to exchange her shoes for a more comfortable pair. When she put her foot into the shoe that had been left at home she found it occupied by a snake. She gave a scream and her father ran to her assistance. He picked up the shoe and tried to shake the reptile out, but it popped out its head, causing him to drop the shoe instantly. He then kicked the shoe and all in the yard, and finally succeeded in ousting the trespasser, which proved to be a ground rattlesnake more than twelve inches in length. Will the reader please observe that the serpent was found in the shoe of a woman—no a man—therefore Arkansas whisky should not be held accountable for the story.

It always produces a queer kind of sensation to meet a lady relation or friend after an absence of ten or fifteen years. You look at her and think "dear, dear, what a change to be sure, what an old-looking hen she has grown to be." And she looks at you and thinks "well, well, and this podgy, bald-headed old rooster is all that is left of my handsome Jim, Dick, Bill or whatever your hideous name may be." Then you both exclaimed with one breath: "Why, how well you're looking; not a day older." What liars we mortals are.

### WIT AND WISDOM.

ORATORS and women never know when to stop talking.

EXPERIENCE is a school where a man learns what a big fool he has been.

It always grieves us to see a true poet dealing out messages by the link.

Texas Siftings advertise: "Lynch's sure cure for horse-thieves—a dose, one drop."

We cannot be robbed of time because it is always hours.—*Toledo Saturday American*.

The bootblack is an affectionate little fellow. He takes a shine to almost everybody.—*Yawcob Strauss*.

OUT west when a man dies with delirium tremens they say he died a natural death.—*Rochester Express*.

"BETTER rent than buy."—*Rochester Sunday Herald*. Of the two evils choose the leased.—*Elmira Free Press*.

WHEN a woman attains the age of 35 without accumulating a husband she enjoys attending one funeral more than a dozen balls.

THE short crop will make a corner on tobacco, and some speculative dealers will bite off more than they can chew.—*New Orleans Picayune*.

IN no other part of the civilized world is so much of the country destroyed through fire as in the United States, the amount averaging each year, \$100,000,000.

THE acme of politeness was reached by the Nevada mining superintendent who posted a placard reading: "Please do not tumble down the shaft."—*Detroit Free Press*.

A FRENCH maxim: If you ever find yourself confronting the dreadful alternative of living with your mother-in-law or of shooting your head off, shoot away!—*French Journal*.

ON account of the dry, hot summer, the failure of the American corn crop is going to have a destructive effect upon the vintage of heavy wines in the south of France.—*Burlington Hawkeye*.

A HARDY seaman, who had escaped one of the recent shipwrecks on our coast, was asked by a good lady how he felt when the waves broke over him. He replied: "Wet, ma'am; very wet."

A MULE recently died at a United States fort in Washington Territory that was forty-six years old, and had been in the government service thirty-six years. It is estimated that the total distance he had kicked men would be 800 miles in a straight line.

ECONOMY is wealth. A Philadelphia lady who found a baby in a basket on her doorstep took the infant to the station-house, but saved the basket to carry home her marketing.—*Philadelphia Chronicle Herald*.

AN anxious correspondent writes us a long communication, saying that he "can prove from the bible that angels have wings." We don't believe it. Bible or no bible, the one we married hasn't any wings.—*Burlington Hawkeye*.

THE fund for Mrs. Garfield, received and paid to the United States Trust Company is \$360,345, and the amount paid by that company for the purchase of \$300,000 of four per cent. registered bonds, \$348,968; balance of cash with the company, \$11,377.

A SQUINT-EYED man, who stole a valuable picture from an art store, on being asked by the judge before whom he was brought his reason for the theft, replied that he had been told by several photographers that it was impossible for a man with such an expression of face to take a good picture, and he wanted to prove the contrary.

SHE was a Boston girl. She was visiting her Whitehall country cousins. While walking out several butterflies passed her. "Oh, dear me, what charming little birds. They are perfectly exquisite." "They are not birds, my dear," replied her country cousin, "they are butterflies." "Oh, you don't say so!" Then these are the dear little creatures that fly from flower to flower and gather the sweet yellow butter that we use? They are too lovely for anything.

"The crubescence excrecence on your olfactory organ is yet in its adolescence" said a physician to a young man with an abnormal development of his *nez retousse*. The doctor merely meant that the boil on the youth's nose was not yet ripe. But the fellow thought he wouldn't live to get home. He now carries a dictionary in his coat-pocket, in place of a revised flesh.—*Essexman Republican*.